268751

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January 17, 2004

Regarding FAA proposed rule re: Paid Airplane Rides
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Docket Number 4521 – FAA-98-452/-1480
Document Management System
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401
400 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Sirs:

This Docket #4521 Proposed Rule is another example of a solution to a problem which doesn't exist. Hillary Clinton knows nothing about aviation and very little about anything else. My first observation is that Part 91 Safety Statistics are better than Part 135 Operators to being with. So where's the problem?

This proposal will shut down all public access to rides in antique and warbird aircraft, and shut off most of the funds needed to keep these historic aircraft flying and available to the public. These rides are not in competition to 135 and 121 operators. They operate short hops on clear VFR days. Antique and warbird aircraft are never going to qualify under 135 maintenance rules, yet they are better kept than many charter 135 aircraft I have seen. These aircraft are the roots of our aviation heritage. They are kept by private owners who treat them like pets or a family heirloom. Aircraft museums are fine, but it is PRIVATE OWNERS who scrape and save to keep historic and interesting aircraft flying. The income from public "dollar rides" is a big part of their support. If their insurance companies are not concerned, why should the FAA see any need to shut these people down? I have seen no reports of antique or warbirds killing scores of (or ANY) people.

There is no safety problem. Let's stop the political BS. Let Hillary pout. Ergo – no need for another restrictive rule.

Sincerely,